

1854
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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE
TERRITORY OF UTAH:

DELIVERED DECEMBER ELEVENTH, A. D. EIGHTEEN HUNDRED
AND FIFTY FOUR.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL

AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

UNDER the benign influence of high Heaven's protecting care, we are again assembled in the capacity of a Legislative Assembly, to ordain and establish such laws as shall best subserve the public good.

The toil of the husbandman has been rewarded by a plentiful harvest, and peace, prosperity, and success, have eminently attended all our efforts.

We have been delivered from the overflowing scourge which desolates the nations, the wayward destroyer, and the devouring flame. With thanksgiving and praise, let our aspirations ascend from warm and willing hearts, unto our Father and our God, who has extended unto us his rich blessings, and caused the earth to bring forth in her strength for our sustenance.

Although a large immigration have found homes in these peaceful vales during the past season, yet, it is believed there is an abundant supply of food for all, until another harvest.

Through the untiring exertions of our worthy delegate in Congress, Hon. John M. Bernhisel, appropriations have been obtained for making a "Road through our Southern Settlements, and extending to the boundary of California; for holding treaties with the Indians; and to defray the expense incurred in suppressing Indian hostilities in the years 1851 and 1852." These are the first appropriations of the kind which have been made for this territory. This action of Congress, though tardy, is none the less acceptable, evincing, as it does, a favorable disposition to place Utah upon an equal footing with other territories. We hail it as a good omen, and trust that in future her interests may not be neglected, nor her claims unregarded. There seems to be a difficulty in

obtaining appropriations when made by Congress; month after month, and even a year sometimes intervenes, before they are received at the point of disbursement. Where the distance is so great, and the means of communication are so limited, it is desirable that the action of the department should be prompt in such matters.

The present prospect is, that none of the appropriations made at the last session will be received before another year; such delays operate very onerously and unjustly upon the territory, as well as upon the citizens, who have so long been anxiously looking for the liquidation of their just claims.

The appropriations for the State House and Penitentiary are each expended; and in order to complete either of those works, an additional appropriation will be required, either by the legislature or Congress.

The works at Fillmore have rapidly progressed the past season, and it is anticipated that the State House will be ready for the accommodation of the legislature at its next annual session.

Peace with the Indians has been preserved during the year, although detached parties of the Utahs have been found unfriendly, which in one instance resulted in their killing two of our citizens. The perpetrators of this crime were brought in by other Indians, and delivered up to the United States authorities, before whom they had a fair trial, were found guilty of murder, and executed according to law, the Indians themselves giving testimony against them.

It has required the greatest forbearance and patience, as well as large amounts of presents on the part of our citizens, to maintain amicable relations with them. In some few instances they have presumed upon the forbearance shown them, and conducted themselves very improperly and abusively to the people. The pacific policy which has, from the beginning, been exercised toward them, has no doubt avoided many collisions which might have resulted in open war.

Although large quantities of beef, flour, clothing, guns, ammunition, &c., have been given them, to conciliate and make them friendly, yet the savage propensities of their natures, their improvident and vile gambling habits of life are such that no present supply, no matter how generous, remains long with them; and their indolence precludes any idea of their replenishing from their own resources.

The Shoshones are rather superior to the Utahs, and provide better for their own living, although a large party of *them* have quartered upon the settlements north during the past summer. Much has been done by the inhabitants, since their residence among the Indians of the mountains, to ameliorate their condition. They were found to exist in the lowest state of degradation—poor, ignorant, indolent, and savage. In their anger, nothing restrained them, but fear, from the greatest excess of crime. They would sell and gamble away their own children, and steal from and rob other Indians of theirs, either to sell, gamble away, or kill, as their humor seemed to suit them. A horse or gun was deemed an equivalent for killing a man; and every shade of difficulty became a matter of barter for pecuniary consideration. The settlers have invariably given them provisions and clothing, furnished them with guns and ammunition to kill game, and in various ways administered to their relief. In many places grain has been raised for them, and houses built for their chiefs and principal men.

This policy has had a tendency to correct their vile habits and propensities, and sometimes induce them to labor for their own support.

This course of liberality towards them, in addition to constant loss of property caused by their depredations, is a severe tax and burden upon the people, especially in the more isolated and thinly settled locations, where their visits are more frequent and more numerously attended. It is, therefore, with a sense of relief that we look forward to the disbursement of the present appropriation made for holding treaties with the Indians, in the expectation that the *people* will be secured against their depredations, and partially relieved from their constant support.

The territory will also be partially re-imburshed for advances which she has made from time to time for the suppression of Indian hostilities. It is undeniable that those expenses have been much less in this, than other territories similarly situated, and should be met with a spirit of liberality on the part of the General Government. But whatever the Government may be able to accomplish in her intercourse with the Indians, it is scarcely expected that Utah will be relieved of their presence,—consequently not freed from their depredations. The inhabitants should therefore secure themselves and property as much as possible, and be prepared to defend themselves at any moment from their hostile incursions. Each settlement should complete its defences, and preserve an active and energetic military organization. In various ways the people have sought to secure their own safety, and protect their property from constant depredations, short of maintaining an open warfare against them. I have uniformly pursued a friendly course of policy towards them, feeling convinced, that independent of the question of exercising humanity towards so degraded and ignorant a race of people, it was manifestly more economical, and less expensive, to feed and clothe, than to fight them.

The policy adopted towards a small band, usually inhabiting Weber county by the inhabitants of that district in distributing them out among the citizens, making for the Indians, judicious selections, where they and their families may feel that they have a home, and know that they can depend upon having food, shelter, and kind treatment in exchange for their labor, seems feasible, and if, in the end, it should prove successful, will have a tendency, at least, to secure peace to the inhabitants, and civilization to the Indians. Doubtless, a vast deal of patience and forbearance would be required to carry out this policy, even if the Indians should consent to try it. If they were suitably employed, it is believed, they would become profitable laborers after a little experience. They should be paid honorably and fairly in such things as they need, day by day, according to their necessities, until they learn to be more provident of their means.—Like all other works of great philanthropy, this probably would be gradual in its operation; but if it should be deemed worthy of adoption, it is believed, it can be carried into general effect in the Territory.

In many of the Southern Settlements, already the Indians have become useful in labor and business, and quite a number of Indian Children are found living in families, who have taken them to bring up and educate. So far as my knowledge extends in relation to the subject, such children have had the benefit of Common Schools; this blessing is secured to them by the operation of law.

The subject of Education has probably received as much attention in this as in any other as newly settled State or Territory. In almost all the Wards and Districts, good School Houses have been erected, and Schools maintained a part of the year, but I fear that sufficient attention is not paid to the selection and examination of teachers, or the manner of conducting Schools. Although the Board of Regents, have doubtless by their influence aided much, and are still extending their influence and exertions in a general way to advance the cause of education, yet at this moment, there is not a *Parent School* for the instruction of Teachers—a Mathematical or High School where the higher branches are taught, in all the Territory; neither have they a single object of Public Improvement under their auspices in progress for educational purposes. This is partly owing to the want of means to operate with, and partly to the fact, that the Board, consisting of men engaged in such a multiplicity of business, have but little time to devote to these duties. Hitherto the cause of education has been entrusted with the Board, by the Legislature who probably conceived they had sufficiently discharged their duties, by having invested the Regents with full power and authority to act in relation to that subject. But it is a subject of vast importance, and involves trusts of too weighty consideration to be neglected for any reasons at present existing. It is a subject fraught with momentous interest to us, and our youth, who

are soon to become our representatives upon the earth, and will, if neglected, recoil with bitterness upon our own heads, when too late to remedy.

As a Territory, *we have peace*, and extensive ability exists with the People, to establish, and sustain good Common Schools in every Ward, and District, not only three, or six months in a year, as appears at present most common; but ten, or eleven, wherein every child, no matter how poor, may find admittance. Schools for teachers, Mathematical Schools, and Schools wherein the higher branches are taught, should also be kept in successful operation, in all of the principal towns. It is moreover an opportune time to introduce the New Alphabet, in forming which, the Regency have performed a difficult and laborious task. I recommend that it be thoroughly and extensively taught in all the Schools, combining, as it eminently does, a basis of instruction for the attainment of the English language, far surpassing in simplicity and ease any known to exist. Although the more immediate duties pertaining to the subject of education, may devolve upon the Regency, still, it does not free the Legislature from responsibility, and I doubt not that whatever aid or influence you may find in your power to extend, will be cheerfully given.

I cannot refrain from again calling your attention to the subject of Home Manufactures. Large quantities of wool, flax, hides, furs, and almost every variety of the best material for the manufacture of Woolen cloth, Linen, Leather, Hats, Soap, Candles, Glue, Oil, Sugar, Pottery, and Castings, are found in abundance, and easily procured, and yet we find large quantities of such articles annually imported, and purchased by the people, which causes a large and constant drain of our *circulating medium*. If a few hundred thousand dollars, which are now annually expended, and carried away for imported goods, were instead thereof, invested in Machinery and articles for *Domestic Manufactures*, it would prove far more advantageous, and rapidly advance the prosperity of our thriving Territory.

It would appear, that the expense and trouble of transporting goods over a thousand miles of *land carriage*, would be sufficiently protective to encourage the capitalist to embark in *domestic manufacturing*. It is manifestly our interest as a people, to more generally produce from our own resources, articles for our own use. It is the *spring of wealth* to any community—of *independence* to any State. Much has been accomplished, but the very prices prove that the manufacture of all of the above mentioned articles, as well as many others, is a lucrative business, opening to the enterprize of many more of our citizens.

If our market could be abundantly supplied with articles of domestic industry, and economy, our object would be attained, the money retained in the country, and importers seek elsewhere a market for their goods.

The Canyon Creek Sugar Works, designed for the extensive manufacture of Sugar from the Beet, are nearly ready for operation. The Works in Iron county, for the manufacture of Iron from the *ore*, are in operation, although not as successful as could be desired. The operators have had many unforeseen obstacles, more or less incident to all new locations, and untried metals, as well as many adverse circumstances, to contend with; but it is gratifying, and encouraging to know that they have so far been able to surmount them all; and have moreover acquired an experience which will greatly facilitate future operations. This branch of domestic manufacture has received considerable aid from the Public Treasury, and may, for a limited time, still need some assistance.

We recognize, in the *general diffusion of true knowledge*, and the universal practice of well directed industry and economy, the elements of unbounded prosperity, and independence; they form the *bulwarks* of our defence, and are the source of our *freedom*. The fostering care of Legislative authority, and aid, should be extended to all such objects as are so manifestly calculated to promote the general welfare. Considerable Public Improvements have been accomplished, although more through the voluntary contributions of the people in labor &c., than funds devoted for such purposes. Bridges across

the Jordan and Sevier rivers have been built; mills have been, and are being constantly erected; roads are made; kanyons and mountains explored, for material, and vast quantities of timber, lumber, stone, and other materials collected for the permanent improvement of our towns and cities; all betokening a spirit of energy, and enterprize on the part of our citizens, gratifying to all, who feel an interest in the improvement, and progress of these far distant vales.

The revenue derived from the assessment of the past year, has been merely nominal, amounting in all to only - - - - - \$6386 31
 And of this amount collected - - - - - \$4434 56
 Which leaves a balance delinquent of - - - - - \$1951 75
 There have been collected however, from the delinquencies of former years, \$8682 11 which has aided the Treasury to meet a great share of the public debt.
 Auditor's warrants, redeemed at the treasury, during the year, amount to \$13,182 85
 Leaving in circulation at date of report, October 31, 1854, - - - - - \$3352 36

which is less than half the amount outstanding at the close of the last fiscal year.
 There is still a delinquency in the hands of the Collectors, amounting to \$8273 31
 Which, if collected, would leave a balance in favor of the treasury of \$4920 05

It is barely probable that sufficient may be realized from the present delinquency, to meet the existing indebtedness. You will therefore perceive, that whatever appropriations may be made, it will necessarily be based upon revenue arising from future assessments.

There exists an unwarrantable neglect on the part of a majority of the Collectors, in not collecting the taxes, and making their returns in proper season. The *Revenue Law* should embrace a *penalty*, and a provision, making it the duty of some person to prosecute such collectors as fail to comply with the requirements of the law; because a collector dislikes to enforce his collections, should cease to be an excuse. The people are abundantly able to pay their taxes; and if they fail or neglect to do so, the *law* should be enforced against them. In common courtesy, the people should be more prompt in these matters, and not devolve upon their officers the unpleasant task of compelling them.

If appropriations are made for Public Improvements, and other objects of interest and general utility, the rate per cent will necessarily have to be increased, but for the ordinary expenses of government, it is considered that the present will bring sufficient revenue.

We are still left in doubt, in regard to the construction of a railway across the continent, the time when, and the route it shall traverse. If it were thrown open to private enterprise, and men were secured the right of way, it is more than probable, that one, or more, would now be in process of construction, and soon in successful operation.

As the all-absorbing Nebraska-Kansas question seems now happily disposed of, it is sincerely hoped, that this matter will earnestly engage the attention of Congress at an early day. The Department have probably received the reports of the several railway routes surveyed by this time, and nothing should hinder their proceeding at once to the decision of its location, and taking measures for its speedy construction.

In the Military Department there is no material change from last Report; the usual musters have been held, but the new enrollments which it is anticipated will show a considerable increase in the numbers, have not yet been returned. Some of the Volunteer Companies, are providing themselves suitable uniform, which adds to their Military appearance and indicates that they feel an interest in the performance of this, as well as other duties. It would be a matter of gratification, if others would follow their example. 'Tis true, we prefer efficiency in organization, discipline, arms, ammunition, and all necessary accoutrements, to useless appendages, ornamental or otherwise; but the energy and commendable pride which stimulates an Officer or Soldier to uniform him-

self may generally be taken as an evidence that the more necessary part is not neglected. Service during the year, has been nominal; no expeditions have been called for, and the constant *Guard Service* so requisite during the prevalence of Indian Aggressions and hostilities, has been, in a measure, dispensed with.

Fort and City walls, remain in most of the Settlements in an unfinished condition.— We again, urge it upon the People to improve the present time of *peace and prosperity*, to complete their defences as they know not what hour their enjoyment of quiet may be broken.

The aid of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company has been extended to thousands of poor, to assist them to emigrate from the United States, and other countries and find homes in the Valleys of the Mountains. The operations of the Company thus far, have been very successful, although comparatively little remuneration has as yet been received from those benefited. They will, however, as they get able, refund, and in many instances double by *donation* what they have received.

By the aid of this Fund, much good has already been accomplished; many thousands of persons have been taken from the depth of poverty and placed where they can, not only sustain themselves, but soon find a competence for themselves and families. Still thousands are anxiously awaiting for the time when the Company will be able to bring them, also, to a land, where labor finds its reward. The operations of the Company prove doubly remunerative; it not only places the poor in a situation to sustain themselves but adds to the sum of labor necessary to develop the resources of the Territory, and bring forth and combine from the elements, things necessary for the sustenance and convenience of human existence.

Our labor is our wealth; by it we bring to ourselves the luxuries of life, ornament the earth with beautiful dwellings and gardens, build cities, and bring forth the rich fruits of the earth from her prolific bosom. This, then, is a natural outlet to the overpopulated districts of the older states and countries, where every avenue seems closed against the poor who linger out a miserable existence in hunger and want, bequeathing their children the same fate—a hopeless and thankless legacy. *Here!* in these favored climes, poverty can scarcely be said to exist, and no person, having the common ability to labor, need want for the common necessities of life. This has been the labor of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, to pick up the *worthy poor* from such places, and give them an inheritance with us. That they have been successful, let the hills, the vales, the canyons, which echo with the hum of their industry, make answer! Let the granaries, groaning with the productions of the earth, the result of their labor, reply! From the beginning, their operations have gradually increased—the last year's immigration amounting to nearly four thousand souls. It is designed to operate more extensively hereafter, in immigrating from the United States.

The full compliment of the federal officers for this territory, except an Indian agent, are now resident with us; and so far as I am informed, a good degree of cordiality and reciprocal kindness exists between them and the people of the territory.

A corps of the U. S. Troops, under the command of Col. Steptoe, on their way to California, are also sojourning with us during the winter. From the courteous and gentlemanly bearing of the officers, and the control which they appear to exercise over their men, I feel gratified in the belief, that if their services were wanting in protecting the settlements from Indian aggression, or otherwise, it would be cheerfully extended.

While thus briefly reviewing the condition and situation of our territory—our own beloved *mountain home*, I am forcibly reminded of her rapid progress during the short period of her existence, also eliciting bright anticipations of her glorious future, when she shall emerge from territorial thralldom, and have her place among that mighty family of nations, whose progress and *power*, whose influence and destiny, the disclosing eye of Omnipotence can alone reveal.

May we aid, by our united energy and ability, in subserving the public good, that when we go hence, we may have the proud consciousness of having faithfully kept and fulfilled the important trusts reposed in us by the people, whose servants we are, and whom we have the honor to represent.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, U. T., Great Salt Lake City, Dec. 11, 1854.

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